

## REGION 7 – SEWARD PENINSULA

<u><b>SEAT 1</b></u>	<b>VACANT</b>	
<u><b>SEAT 2</b></u> <b>2008</b> <b>2005</b>	<b>Peter Martin, Sr.</b>	<b>Stebbins</b>
<u><b>SEAT 3</b></u> <b>2005</b>	<b>Michael Quinn</b>	<b>Nome</b>
<u><b>SEAT 4</b></u> <b>2007</b> <b>2004</b>	<b>Clifford Weyiouanna</b>	<b>Shishmaref</b>
<u><b>SEAT 5</b></u> <b>2007</b> <b>1995</b>	<b>Peter G. Buck</b>	<b>White Mountain</b>
<u><b>SEAT 6</b></u> <b>2007</b> <b>2001</b>	<b>Myron Savetilik</b>	<b>Shaktoolik</b>
<u><b>SEAT 7</b></u> <b>2006</b> <b>1994</b>	<b>Elmer K. Seetot, Jr.</b>	<b>Brevig Mission</b>
<u><b>SEAT 8</b></u> <b>2006</b> <b>2003</b>	<b>Charles F. Saccheus, Sr.</b>	<b>Elim</b>
<u><b>SEAT 9</b></u> <b>2006</b> <b>2003</b>	<b>Thomas Gray</b>	<b>White Mountain</b>
<u><b>SEAT 10</b></u> <b>2007</b> <b>2003</b>	<b>Vance E. Grishkowsky</b>	<b>Unalakleet</b>

**SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
AURORA INN CONFERENCE ROOM, NOME, ALASKA 99762  
February 23, 2006, 10:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.  
February 24, 2006; 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Grace Cross, Nome  
Mike Quinn, Nome  
Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig Mission  
Peter G. Buck, White Mountain  
Tom Gray, White Mountain  
Cliff Weyiouanna, Shishmaref  
Charles Saccheus, Sr., Elim  
Peter Martin, Sr., Stebbins  
Vance Grishkowsky, Unalakleet  
Myron Savetilik, Shaktoolik

**Excused:**

None

**Absent:**

None

**Federal Agency Personnel**

**FWS/OSM**

Chuck Ardizzzone, Anchorage  
Barb Armstrong, Anchorage  
Maureen Clark, Anchorage  
Helen Armstrong, Anchorage  
Greg Bos, Anchorage

**BLM**

Thomas Sparks, Nome  
Jeff Denton, Anchorage

**NPS**

Ken Adkisson, Nome  
Sandy Rabinowitch, Anchorage  
Judy Gottlieb, Anchorage

**State ADF&G**

Jim Magdanz, Kotzebue  
Kate Persons, Nome (in and out)  
Tony Gorn, Nome  
Terry Haynes, Fairbanks

**PUBLIC**

Morris Nassuk, Koyuk

**Organizations**

Austin Ahmasuk, Kawerak, Nome  
Sandra Medearis, Arctic News, freelance  
Jesse Zink, KNOM Radio Station  
Tim Kroeker, Kawerak, Nome  
Rose Atuk Fosdik, Kawerak, Nome

**BIA**

Pat Petrivelli, Anchorage

**Court Reporter:** Nate Hile

**Call to Order**

Ms. Grace Cross, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in Nome at the Aurora Inn Conference Room.

### **Roll Call/Confirmation of Quorum**

Ms. Barb Armstrong called roll and declared a quorum was established. A full board was present. Members excused: None.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Grace Cross welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked people to introduce themselves, beginning with the Council members.

### **Review and Adoption of Agenda**

Ms. Cross added to discuss the regulatory language on proxy hunting under State report; Mr. Elmer Seetot's WACH meeting report to 13E; Mr. Jim Magdanz to give report on muskox amounts necessary.

Mr. Gray **moved** to adopt the *agenda as modified*, and Mr. Savetilik seconded it. The **motion carried** unanimously.

### **Review and Adoption of Minutes of February 23 and 24, 2005**

Mr. Cross reviewed the minutes with the Council.

Page 11: Please correct Robert Cower to Robert Kauer

Mr. Weyiouanna **moved** to approve the minutes as amended of the October 13, 2005 meeting. Mr. Grishkowsky **seconded** it. The **motion carried** unanimously.

### **COUNCIL CHARTER**

Every two years regional council charters are reviewed for renewal. The charter in the book is the new charter. Ms. Armstrong explained that is the Council's opportunity to recommend changes, if they wish, to the Council's name, boundary, membership size, the criteria for removing a member and to request specific subsistence resource commission appointments. Ms. Cross said that she would like it to be in the annual report that the Council would like to increase to thirteen members to give more representation to the villages.

The Council was concerned about budget issues and whether or not there is enough money to adequately fund this Council. Helen Armstrong responded that while there are significant budget concerns for the Office of Subsistence Management, the OSM will ensure that the budget supports funding the Councils. Where the budget cuts are happening is not funding some FIS projects and not filling positions. The Councils may also see some cuts when some Councils will be asked to meet in regional centers rather than in remote villages. This is more of an issue for the Kodiak-Aleutians Council than for the Seward Peninsula Council. The Chair suggested that they take this home and it will be on the agenda again, at their fall meeting. They can submit their change recommendations then.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Council unanimously re-elected Ms. Grace Cross to the office of Chairman and Mr. Cliff Weyiouanna as vice-chairman. Mr. Mike Quinn was unanimously elected to the office of secretary.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair reported that she attended the Federal Subsistence Board in January, 2006.

The Federal Subsistence Board covered fish regulations. She referred the Council to the 805(c) letter in the book for their reading. She asked the Council if there is anything that they would like to add to their Annual Report. Mr. Gray suggested the subsistence proxy issue should be added to the report.

## VILLAGE REPORTS

**Brevig Mission:** Mr. Seetot reported that muskox have not been harvested on Federal Public Lands. No caribou hunting, they are looking in the American River and the Kougarok Mountain at this time. Snow conditions are soft right now, so they have not really gone anywhere. Few wolverines and wolves were harvested by Teller residents.

**Shaktoolik:** Mr. Savetilik reported that the caribou did not pass through. They have harvested some caribou but slow and also due to weather. The weather changes from cold to warm caused some overflow in certain places making it unsafe for them to travel. They are doing fine. Spring is here and the subsistence hunting is getting active.

**White Mountain:** Mr. Buck reported that the moose season was not too bad, but he did not think that moose was harvested this winter. The weather has been cold.

**Elim:** Mr. Saccheus reported that they have had a good caribou season and now the caribou are heading north to the calving grounds. The Golovin and White Mountain hunters have been traveling up to Death Valley and not harvesting any caribou. That hurts them because the price of gas is so expensive.

**Stebbins:** Mr. Martin reported that they have had successful moose season, their proposal to the State for changes from December to January has been good. No caribou were in their area. Wolves were harvested. The reindeer herd is doing well.

**Nome:** Mr. Quinn did not have any concerns.

**Shishmaref:** Mr. Weyiouanna reported that he is glad that the State and NPS are looking at the muskox population in 22E. It is too high and needs to be knocked down. The caribou are over in the Goodhope River, the females are pretty much gone but the bulls are staying there year round. They are concerned with the State proxy hunt system. The village of Shishmaref volunteered to close the moose season from March 31st to December 31st and as a result the population is increasing. The residents of Shishmaref are concerned with how they can co-work with the NSEDC to help the cod and crab populations, because Kotzebue is not doing anything to help them.

**Unalakleet:** Mr. Grishkowsky reported that the Unalakleet River drainage did not have a moose season; however, south of Unalakleet River, the Golsovia area had a December season. The hunters who went were not successful due to the weather and snow conditions. There aren't any caribou right now. The hunters have gone up to the Granite Mountain to harvest caribou; and weather has been a handicap for them. Lynx, wolverine, marten were trapped by a few trappers. They did pretty good under the weather conditions; ice conditions on the trails have made it very difficult. Ice fishing for trout has been good this winter. Salmon fishing was good last fall. He heard that it was the third best run of silvers that the Unalakleet River had in its history.

**White Mountain:** Mr. Gray reported that they do have problems with fishing and crabbing. He has seen some fawns out there where they had them before so he feels the moose are starting to increase. They are harvesting the muskox in their area and that is good. They aren't seeing bears and he as a guide is having hard time finding good bears. The caribou didn't come; but he's happy because he has a reindeer herd. There aren't that many wolves because there aren't any caribou. A couple of kids trapped some lynx. The moose population is down. They didn't fill the quota. It's a tough situation for subsistence in the region. As a result, people are turning to muskox to fill their freezers.

Mr. Gray added that the caribou map that ADF&G produced is used by the hunters in his village. We need to support that map—this is a map on the internet showing where the caribou that are collared are. The coordinator handed out hard copies of the maps. Mr. Quinn said there are members in the Federal agencies that don't like people looking at the map on the internet and then going and hunting those caribou. Mr. Magdanz said he was at the Western Arctic Caribou Herd working group meeting two weeks ago. The Selawik Refuge of the US and Fish and Wildlife Service requested that the data be available to school children as a learning tool. The WACH Working Group delayed the decision because villagers were concerned that commercial guides would use this information to better their commercial gains. Mr. Gray is going to bring this back up later in the meeting. He'd like to see a letter written to the Federal agencies to support access to the maps.

**Nome:** Ms. Cross reported that the people are talking a lot about the over abundance of bear populations around Nome, predation on moose calves since moose population is really down around the road system, people are concerned that there is an over population of bears. There are problems in her camp with bears coming around and totally destroying her fish. There aren't too many people have gotten moose. She hasn't heard of anyone going out to get caribou. It has been tough for everyone in that respect. Because of the weather, no one has been able to go out and look for game, the weather has been either too cold or too wet.

## WILDLIFE PROPOSALS

**Proposal WP06-01:** Statewide proposal, submitted by the Federal Subsistence Board, to provide regulatory language addressing the commercial sales of handicrafts made from bear claws (deferred proposal WP05-01).

Mr. Gray **moved** to oppose the proposal. Mr. Quinn **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried** unanimously.

**Justification:** the Council was uncomfortable supporting this proposal, because they could see a connection between this proposal and the customary trade of fish regulations. The Council was worried that if they supported this proposal it may apply to other resources in the future (i.e. polar bears).

**Proposal WP06-02:** Statewide proposal, submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management to provide regulatory language authorizing the sale of handicrafts made from nonedible by products of wildlife, other than bears, harvested for subsistence uses; to have federal regulations align with existing State regulations; and to accommodate existing practices.

Mr. Gray **moved** to support with modification to remove the redundant reference to bear in the regulatory language, to provide need definitions of the terms big game and trophy, and to prohibit sales from constituting a significant commercial enterprise (consistent with the sale of bear claw handicrafts). Mr. Seetot **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried** unanimously.

**Justification:** the Council supported allowing subsistence users to sell handicrafts articles made from nonedible byproducts of wildlife harvested for subsistence uses. This would benefit subsistence users by allowing them to fully utilize the resource and would allow this practice that is already allowed under State regulation.

**Proposal WP06-37:** The proposal was submitted by the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, requests caribou season dates be changed to Oct.1-April 30 in Unit 22B (west of

Golovin Bay and west of the west bank of the Fish, Niukluk, and Libby Rivers) and in Unit 22D in the Pilgrim River drainage; and that the May 1-Sept. 30 season be opened when announced by BLM.

Mr. Gray **moved** support with modification, to change the boundary language to align with language adopted by the Alaska Board of Game during its November, 2005, meeting. Mr. Quinn **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried** unanimously.

**Justification:** The Council supported the proposal as modified by staff. It will help to prevent the harvest of reindeer as caribou along the road system and has been agreed upon by reindeer herders, hunters and the State. The proposal will also align Federal regulations with recently changed State regulations.

**Proposal WP06-38:** The proposal submitted by the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, requests that the winter moose season in Unit 22A-remainder be shifted from Dec. 1-Dec. 31 to Jan. 1-Jan. 31. This would place changes made by Special Action WSA05-12/13 into permanent regulation.

Mr. Martin **moved** to support the proposal as presented. Mr. Quinn **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried** unanimously.

**Justification:** The Council supported this proposal. This proposed change was requested by the residents of Stebbins and St. Michael and would allow the harvest of moose when there is more daylight and better weather conditions. This would also align Federal regulation with recent changes made in State regulations.

**Proposal WP06-39:** The proposal, submitted by Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, requests that a portion of Unit 22A, which includes the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia drainage and south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages, be closed to the taking of moose. This proposal would place changes made by Special Action WSA05-04 into permanent regulation.

Mr. Gray **moved** to support the proposal. Mr. Quinn **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried** unanimously.

**Justification:** The Council supported the proposal. Based on recent BLM and ADF&G surveys there has been a drastic reduction in the moose population. This proposal is important to conserve the moose population in the affected area. This proposal would also align Federal regulations with recent changes made in State regulations.

**Proposal WP06-40:** The proposal, submitted by the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, requests that the harvest dates for moose in Unit 22D be changed to Sept. 1-Sept. 14 and that the quota numbers be removed from regulation. Also requests that the following language be added to regulations for two of the hunt areas: "Quotas and any needed season changes will be announced by the Field Office Manager of the BLM, in consultation with NPS and ADF&G." Would place changes made by Special Action into permanent regulation.

Mr. Grishkowsky **moved** to support with modification, to change the Federal registration permit requirement to State registration permits. Mr. Gray **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried** unanimously.

**Justification:** The Council supported the proposal as modified by staff. The proposal is important as it provides a uniform moose season along the road accessible area in Unit 22, which should help to prevent over harvest in an area where serious concerns about the declining moose population exist. This proposal would also align Federal regulations with recent changes made in State regulations.

**Proposal WP06-41:** The proposal, submitted by the Seward Peninsula Muskoxen Cooperators Group, requests the use of a designated hunter permits for muskoxen in Unit 22.

Mr. Weyiouanna **moved** to support the proposal. Mr. Buck **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried** unanimously.

**Justification:** Adopting a designated hunter system would produce a harvest system more in line with traditional harvest and sharing practices.

**Proposal WP06-42 to 52:** The proposals, submitted by Kawerak, Inc. in Nome, request customary and traditional use determinations for beaver, Arctic fox, hare, lynx, marten, wolverine, spruce grouse, ptarmigan (rock and willow), ground squirrel, and porcupine. Proposals WP06-51 and 52 also requests year-round seasons and no harvest limits for ground squirrel and porcupine.

Mr. Gray **moved** to defer the proposals. Mr. Quinn **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried** unanimously.

**Justification:** More information needs to be gathered about the uses by residents of the units surrounding Unit 22.

**Proposal WP06-53:** The proposal, submitted by Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, requests that a motorized vehicle including ATV, snowmachine, and boat may be used to “take” a wolf in Unit 22. The definition of “Take” was discussed by the proponent and understood to mean directly killing the wolf with a motorized vehicle.

Mr. Gray **moved** to support the proposal as modified to adopt the State’s new wolf language for Unit 22. Mr. Savetilik **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried** unanimously.

**Justification:** The Council would like to align Federal regulation with the recent changes made by the State Board of Game at its January 2006 meeting. The Council feels this will give subsistence users more opportunities to harvest wolves.

## **FISHERIES RESOURCE MONITORING PROGRAM**

Ms. Armstrong apologized that the handout was not given to her before she left so it would mailed be out to the Council when she returns.

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO CHANGE FEDERAL FISHERIES REGULATIONS**

Ms. Cross announced the call for proposals. Deadline is October 22, 2006.



## AGENCY REPORTS

### OFFICE OF SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT

**Review of Rural Determinations briefing was announced.** It is an informational item on page 97 of your booklet.

Ms. Maureen Clark gave a brief overview of the *draft Closure Review Policy*. She referred the Council to page 99 in the Council booklet. This closure was developed in response to instructions from the Department of Interior, Assistant Secretary, Policy Budget and Administration (October 27, 2005) to review current practices regarding closure decisions and to develop a written policy clarifying the Federal Subsistence Board's approach to such decision. Individual comments can be submitted to the Board through OSM by April 1, 2006. The Council asked questions and for clarification of Ms. Clark and Mr. Ardizzone about what this policy is about. The Council chose not to take any action on the draft policy.

Mr. Sandy Rabinowitch of National Park Service and Mr. Terry Haynes of Alaska Department of Fish and Game presented the **Subsistence Use Amounts Protocol**. Mr. Rabinowitch referred the Council to page 122 in their booklets. The draft protocol is from an interim Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State of Alaska. In the agreement, there were several protocols, and the SUA is one of them. The committee working on these has been working for several years. The SUA sets neither a cap nor a limit, nor does it set a limit for the harvest. The State established "amounts necessary for subsistence" (ANS) in their process. ANS is what exists, but the SUA hasn't been created and hasn't been used. The protocol explains that the Federal program will use the State's ANS as long as everyone agrees that it will work. If the Federal program believes that it won't work for whatever reason, then a Federal SUA will be established. The State feels that there is a linkage between the Federal closures and ANS. The ANS findings help determine if there is a need for that closure. From the State's perspective, the State's ANS findings can be a useful tool in the Federal process. If this protocol is implemented, the Federal process might change the State's numbers. The State started this ANS process before the Federal program began, so they apply to all lands, and does not differentiate between ANS on State and Federal lands. The State's goal in this is to make sure that subsistence use is provided for, but other users are not unnecessarily restricted. The ANS is on both units and subunits, depending on the resource. ANS has not been used to date in the Federal program. Jim Magdanz, ADF&G, added that it is based on the biological situation; the ANS reflects how you should respond to shortfall in the subsistence harvest. In terms of the Federal program using State ANS, where you will see it brought up by the staff, you will see it when there is a potential for a closure being discussed. In the future, the State ANS will be in the analysis. There will be more discussion about the State ANS number, and discussion about whether or not subsistence needs are being met.

In summary, Mr. Rabinowitch stated that there is no Federal SUA. This protocol recognizes and uses the State ANS numbers. They are codified in State regulations. If they are useful, then they will be used. If you are not comfortable with the State's ANS; then there would be discussion as to what to do about it. Perhaps more research would need to be done and a Federal ANS would have to be created for Federal public lands. If the Region is not happy with an ANS, then a proposal could be submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. This would generally be done within the context of a proposal. If you weren't comfortable with the numbers, then the State would make an effort to do a more accurate ANS (done by the Subsistence Division).

Mr. Gray has asked that all of the villages in the Seward Peninsula be surveyed so that accurate ANS amounts can be created. He would like to set some long range goals and work towards those goals. Ms. Cross asked if there was a question about SUA and if they wanted more accurate information about the



use by subsistence users, is there a provision to contract this out to a native organization. Mr. Haynes replied that if there is funding available to collect the needed information, the native organization can do that most efficiently and effectively. ADF&G, Subsistence Division does a lot of that type of work, and it typically does it working closely with native organizations. Council asked questions for clarification and further information. Mr. Haynes encouraged the Council to read over the material that's in the book. He thinks that will help you to better understand what they have tried to summarize for you. If you have questions, route them through Ms. Armstrong, your coordinator. The Chair stated that this issue will be on their fall meeting agenda.

## **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Jeff Denton, a wildlife biologist stationed in Anchorage Field Office, gave an update on the Seward/Kobuk resource management planning process. It will come out for a 90 day comment period by mid-April, 2006. It is on a two set volume and will be made available to a lot of local areas. Copies will be distributed to the Seward/Kobuk communities for comment. It is very important for you to make your comments on this one major issue. You may call Jeanie Cole at BLM to get on the mailing list. They will partner with ADF&G to do a moose recruitment survey in Unit 22A, weather permitting. They plan to do full fledged census within two years to compare if the moratorium is actually accomplishing what they want it to do. They are planning to do a full census on moose in Unit 22D and 22E, partnering with ADF&G.

## **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

Ms. Kate Persons could not attend the meeting due to the weather. Mr. Tony Gorn was at the clinic with his child. Mr. James Magdanz distributed Ms. Persons's report that she provided, a summary on the actions taken by the Alaska Board of Game last November, 2006, in Kotzebue. The Chair asked what the Alaska Board of Game did with proxy hunting at its January 2006 meeting. The Alaska Board of Game added some language to the existing proxy regulation.

1. Proxy hunting will be allowed for caribou, and for deer in areas where the bag limit is greater than one.
2. Proxy hunt will be allowed for moose in cow hunts or any bull hunts.
3. Proxy hunting will be prohibited in specific hunts if the use of the proxy would allow circumvention of harvest restrictions specified by the Alaska Board of Game.

The BOG faced some challenge with proxy hunting that increased by 20% in 2004. The participants in the proxy system were urban Alaskans and there was evidence of abuse. The Board felt they needed to manage the situation to control some of these abuses and add some restrictive regulations.

During this discussion, updates of studies were provided. The results of the fall composition counts for Unit 22C and 22D, some muskox information are written in the handouts. Mr. Denton mentioned that they are planning cooperatively with ADF&G to do moose census, weather permitting, in Units 22D and E. A wolf survey will be done in the Unalakleet drainage. A moose calf weight study in western 22B is planned. A muskox composition survey partnering with NPS will be done in April in Unit 22D. A habitat survey is planned in western 22B for moose.

The BOG requested information on ANS on muskox. He gave the presentation on the Amounts Necessary for Subsistence on muskox. He distributed handouts on the muskox harvest with graphs on the harvestable surplus of muskox, number of Tier II applicants, permits issues, and harvest numbers. Tier II applicants can apply for more than one unit – a total of about 275 people apply for Tier II permits. From this graph, you can see that in Unit 22E there does appear to be a harvestable surplus. In no case has the maximum harvest exceeded the number of muskox that could be harvested. In the past when the BOG has

made ANS determinations, they have looked at this type of information to determine the ANS. If the BOG would look at the hunt history, it would be reasonable for them to establish an ANS that ranged from 20-30 and in 22D they could establish it from 25-35 and defend it legally. They could do that in every unit there would be an amount remaining. You would no longer be in Tier II; you would be in a general hunt situation. The confounding factor is that we have been in a Tier II hunt, but we have harvest demand 15 times of what is available. Over the next year the Cooperators, the Advisory committees, and the Councils will have the opportunity to make some recommendations to the Board as to what the ANS should be. The Council asked questions for clarification and more information.

(WE MUST REMEMBER TO TURN THE MICROPHONES ON WHEN WE ARE SPEAKING; SOME GOOD INFORMATION IS BEING INDISCERNABLE BECAUSE OF THE MICS NOT BEING "ON". THANK YOU.)

The Chair announced the **AVIAN FLU UPDATE FOR HUNTERS**, an informational item only.

#### **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Mr. Ken Adkisson told the Council that his report will be short. They are currently short staffed. They will be cooperating with other agencies in the Seward Peninsula moose work in northern part. They are also preparing for a bear survey in the northern part of the Seward Peninsula, as well as their ongoing wildlife survey projects in Unit 23, which include sheep, moose and muskoxen. They have also received funding for a major baseline subsistence harvest study which targets Kiana in Unit 23.

#### **WESTERN ARCTIC CARIBOU HERD**

Mr. Elmer Seetot, Jr., gave a brief report to the Council as a representative on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd working group. The written report will distributed to the Council.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. James Magdanz added that a patterns and trends study was handed out, copies of the salmon research project that they did with Mr. Austin Amasuk, Kawerak, Inc. It looks at the history of salmon harvest in Norton Sound. He commended Kawerak on how productive the working relationship that they have had with them over the last several years has been. They are planning to expand the customary trade project. Last year, Mr. Kobuk, then representative from St. Michael, asked if they could consider doing that project in southern Norton Sound. Kawerak talked with Stebbins and they agreed. They are waiting to hear from St. Michael. They should have the report for the Council next year.

Mr. Gray **moved** to support the satellite collar website program. He asked that the Chair draft and send a letter to agencies involved in this program. The Council agreed. During discussion, they decided that this did not need the formal format. It would be done.

Mr. Quinn reported that the northern Norton Sound Committee has supported Mr. Austin Amasuk's proposal to extend the beaver trapping season before the Alaska Board of Game to open September 15. The proposal would be heard in March 10, 2006. The southern Norton Sound Committee and Kawerak, Inc. supported the proposal.

Mr. Quinn **moved** to support Austin Amasuk's beaver proposal. Mr. Gray **seconded** the motion. The **motion carried** unanimously.

#### **ESTABLISH TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

**Fall 2006:** October 5 and 6 in Nome.

**Winter 2007:** February 20 and 21, 2007 in Nome

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

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/s/Barbara M. Armstrong, DFO  
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

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/s/Grace Cross, Chair  
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory  
Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

## Federal Subsistence Board

3601 C Street, Suite 1030  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

JUN 27 2006



FOREST SERVICE

FWS/OSM/BB805cLtr

Mrs. Grace A. Cross, Chair  
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional  
Advisory Council  
Post Office Box 1071  
Nome, Alaska 99762

Dear Mrs. Cross:

Enclosed with this letter is a report of the Federal Subsistence Board's actions at the May 16-18, 2006, meeting regarding proposed changes to subsistence wildlife regulations. The Board used a consensus agenda on those proposals where the Council, the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game were in agreement. The Board adopted the consensus agenda at the conclusion of the meeting. Details of these actions and the Board's actual deliberations are contained in the meeting transcripts. Transcripts are online at the Office of Subsistence Management website, <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/index.htm>, and copies may be obtained by calling our toll free number, 1-800-478-1456.

The Federal Subsistence Board appreciates the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's active involvement in and diligence with the regulatory process. The ten Regional Advisory Councils continue to be the foundation of the Federal Subsistence Program, and the stewardship shown by the Regional Advisory Council Chairs and their representatives at the Board meeting was noteworthy.

If you have any questions regarding the summary of the Board's actions, please contact your Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Armstrong, at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3885.

Sincerely,

Mitch Demientieff, Chair  
Federal Subsistence Board

Enclosure

cc: SPSRAC  
Seward Peninsula Regional Team, OSM  
Coastal Division Chief, OSM  
FACA Coordinator, OSM



FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD ACTION REPORT  
May 16-18, 2006  
Anchorage

## **STATE-WIDE PROPOSALS**

### **PROPOSAL WP06-01**

**DESCRIPTION:** Restrict the commercial sales and purchase of handicrafts made from bear byproducts. An individual may not sell handicrafts made from black or brown bear claws to an entity operating as a business as defined by Alaska Statute 43.70.110(1) and no business as defined under that statute may purchase such handicrafts made from black or brown bear claws, unless the bear was taken in Units 1-5. The sale of handicrafts made from the non-edible byproducts of black and brown bears may not constitute a significant commercial enterprise. Submitted by the Federal Subsistence Board.

#### **COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:**

Southeast Alaska: Oppose.

Southcentral Alaska: Oppose. The Council unanimously opposed the proposal stating that the burden of proof should not be on the subsistence users.

Kodiak/Aleutians: Support with modification. The Council was concerned about potential for abuse if the sale of handicrafts made from bear claws was allowed. The resource and local communities could suffer from over harvest of bears due to the allowed sales of handicrafts made from bear claws. There are many legal points to consider and a lack of the ability to track any sales. Only trade, barter, and sharing should be allowed. The resource is too valuable to subject to potential problems involved with sales.

Bristol Bay: Oppose. The Council did not hear any biological information conveying to them that there is a conservation concern of too many bears being harvested. The Council heard concerns from other user groups that after the Board had approved a portion of the proposal which allowed the use of claws in handicrafts that brown bear harvests would increase. Brown bear harvests have not increased. The Council also stated that sport hunters may go out and harvest a brown bear, then have it tanned out of the hunt area without any restrictions placed upon them. Therefore, Council members felt the restrictions in WP06-01 would be a burden to subsistence users.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta: Support. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council honors the beliefs and cultures from other parts of Alaska. Bear claws are used for handicrafts and skin sewing. There is a desire to maintain traditional sales opportunity, while preventing commercialization of sales. There is a desire to be able to display handicrafts in village stores for sales by the person that produced the handicraft.

Western Interior Alaska: Support with the modification to remove the Southeast exemption for Units 1-5. Because of the Western Interior Region's cultural beliefs, the Council defers to the

home regions. There are concerns about commercialization of sales, the impact on the bear resources, and the need to restrict the sale of bear parts. Passage of the Council's recommendation would remove commercial incentives for harvesting bears thereby providing additional protection from over harvest of bear populations. Removal of the proposed Southeast exception is necessary because of the difficulty of enforcing such a regulation.

Seward Peninsula: Oppose.

Northwest Arctic: Support with modification. The Council voted to support the proposal with modification to remove the Southeast exemption.

Eastern Interior Alaska: Support with modification to remove the Southeast exemption for Units 1-5 with the additional modification to remove reference to black bears. The Council wanted regulations that avoid commercialization and incentives to kill bears just to sell their claws. Sale of bear parts is a sensitive issue in some Native cultures. There is a need for measures with some controls. The Council wants subsistence users to be able to fully utilize the harvested resource. There is not a resource problem at this time. If there are problems in the future, the Council can address them at that time.

North Slope: Support with modification to remove the Southeast exemption. Removal of the proposed Southeast exception is necessary because of the difficulty of enforcing such a regulation. Allowing commercial sales of bear claw handicrafts made from bears taken in any part of the State, without a tracking system, will have a significantly detrimental affect on the ability of enforcement officers to differentiate between legitimate sales and the commercial sale of products from poached bears, bears harvested under State regulations and bears harvested under Federal regulations in Eastern Interior and Bristol Bay Regions.

The modified proposed regulation should read: *\_\_\_\_.25(j)8(a) You may not sell handicrafts made from the claws of a black or brown bear to an entity operating as a business as defined in Alaska Statute 43.70.110(1). \_\_\_\_\_.25(j)8(b) If you are a business as defined under Alaska Statute 43.70.110(1) you may not purchase handicrafts made from the claws of a black or brown bear as part of your business transactions. \_\_\_\_\_.25(j)8(c) The sale of handicrafts made from the nonedible by products of black and brown bears, when authorized in this part, may not constitute a significant commercial enterprise.*

BOARD ACTION: Reject, as recommended by the Bristol Bay, Seward Peninsula, Southcentral Alaska and Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, but contrary to the recommendations of the other six Councils.

JUSTIFICATION: There is currently no evidence of a problem with commercial sales of bear claw handicrafts and it would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs by creating these regulations unnecessarily. They further stated that if a problem becomes evident in the future they can address the issue with new regulations at that time. The restrictions on sales becoming a significant commercial enterprise, which the Board adopted as part of WP06-02, however, will apply to bear handicrafts as well as handicrafts made from nonedible byproducts of all other wildlife.



## PROPOSAL WP06-02

**DESCRIPTION:** Provide for sale of handicrafts made from non-edible byproducts of wildlife harvested for subsistence uses (excluding bear) to include skin, hide, pelt, fur, claws, bones (except skulls of moose, caribou, elk, deer, bear, sheep, goat and muskox), teeth, sinew, antlers and/or horns (if not attached to any part of the skull or made to represent a big game trophy) and hooves. Submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management.

### COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:

Southeast Alaska: Support

Southcentral Alaska: Support with modification. The Council supported the proposal with an amendment to strike §\_\_.25(?). The Council discussed that the current language is vague. The burden of proof should not be left with subsistence users and additional control over sales should be clearly defined.

Kodiak/Aleutians: Support with modification to remove the redundant reference to bear in the regulatory language, to provide needed definitions of the terms big game and trophy, and to prohibit sales from constituting a significant commercial enterprise. This proposal, as modified, would satisfy subsistence needs and allows traditional practices.

Bristol Bay: Support with modification. The Council recommends that the Board remove the redundant reference to bear in the regulatory language, provide definitions of the terms big game and trophy, and prohibit sales from constituting a significant commercial enterprise (consistent with the sale of bear claw handicrafts). This practice is currently allowed by State regulation for wildlife harvested under the State's general hunting provisions; however it is currently prohibited for wildlife harvested under Federal subsistence regulations. Adoption of these new regulations will provide Federally qualified subsistence hunters the same opportunities that are currently available to those harvesting under State regulations, and it would accommodate existing practices. This Federal regulation addresses handicrafts only, consistent with the definition of subsistence uses in ANILCA Section 803.

The modified proposed regulation should read: §\_\_.25(j)(9) *If you are a Federally qualified subsistence user, you may sell handicraft articles made from non edible byproducts of wildlife harvested for subsistence uses (excluding bear) to include; skin, hide, pelt, fur, claws, bones (except skulls of moose, caribou, elk, deer, sheep, goat and muskox), teeth, sinew, antlers and/or horns (if not attached to any part of the skull or made to represent a big game trophy) and hooves.* §\_\_.25(a) Definitions. *"big game" means black bear, brown bear, bison, caribou, Sitka black-tailed deer, elk, mountain goat, moose, muskox, Dall sheep, wolf, and wolverine; "trophy" means a mount of a big game animal, including the skin of the head (cape) or the entire skin, in a lifelike representation of the animal, including a lifelike representation made from any part of a big game animal; "trophy" also includes a "European mount" in which the horns or antlers and the skull or a portion of the skull are mounted for display;* §\_\_.25(?) *The sale of handicrafts made from the non-edible byproducts of wildlife, when authorized in this part, may not constitute a significant commercial enterprise.*



Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta: Support. This would allow subsistence users to continue traditional practices.

Western Interior Alaska: Support with modification to remove the redundant reference to bear in the regulatory language. The Council supports the adoption of this proposal, as modified, because the practice is currently allowed by State regulation while currently it is prohibited under Federal subsistence regulations. Adoption of this proposal with the modifications, would provide Federally qualified subsistence hunters the same opportunities that are currently allowed under State regulations.

Seward Peninsula: Support with modification to remove redundant reference to bear in the regulatory language, to provide needed definitions of the terms 'big game' and 'trophy', and to prohibit sales from constituting a significant commercial enterprise (consistent with the sale of bear claw handicrafts). (See the North Slope Regional Advisory Council recommendation for modified proposed regulatory language). The Council supported allowing subsistence users to sell handicraft articles made from nonedible by products of wildlife harvested for subsistence uses. This would benefit subsistence users by allowing them to fully utilize the resource and would allow this practice that is already allowed under State regulation.

Northwest Arctic: Support with modification to remove the redundant reference to bear in the regulatory language.

Eastern Interior Alaska: Support with modification to remove the redundant reference to bear in the regulatory language, and to allow the sale of capes, hides, and sheds as identified in State regulations. The practice is currently allowed under State regulations but prohibited for wildlife harvested under Federal regulations. Adoption of this proposal would provide the same opportunity that currently exists under State regulations. The Council had concerns about not being able to sell capes, hides, and shed horns. Many subsistence hunters currently sell capes and hides. Federal regulations need to align with State regulations and allow the sale of capes, hides, and sheds. This would allow full utilization of the resource.

North Slope: Support with modification to remove the redundant reference to bear in the regulatory language. The North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council voted to modify the proposed regulation as follows: *\_\_\_\_.25(j)(9) If you are a Federally qualified subsistence user, you may sell handicraft articles made from nonedible byproducts of wildlife harvested for subsistence uses (excluding bear) to include; skin, hide, pelt, fur, claws, bones, (except skulls of moose, caribou, elk, deer, sheep, goat and muskox), teeth, sinew, antlers and/or horns (if not attached to any part of the skull or made to represent a big game trophy) and hooves. \_\_\_\_\_.25(a) Definitions: "big game" means black bear, brown bear, bison, caribou, Sitka black-tailed deer, elk, mountain goat, moose, muskox, Dall sheep, wolf, and wolverine; "trophy" means a mount of a big game animal, including the skin of the head (cape) or the entire skin, in a lifelike representation of the animal, including a lifelike representation made from any part of a big game animal; "trophy" also includes a "European mount" in which the horns or antlers and the skull or a portion of the skull are mounted for display; \_\_\_\_\_.25(?) The sale of handicrafts made from the nonedible byproducts of wildlife, when authorized in this part, may not constitute a significant commercial enterprise.*

**BOARD ACTION:** Adopt with modification to remove the redundant references and to provide definitions of the terms “big game” and “trophy” currently lacking in Federal regulations, as recommended by the North Slope, Bristol Bay, Seward Peninsula, Southeast Alaska, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Northwest Arctic, Western Interior, and Kodiak-Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

**JUSTIFICATION:** This practice is currently allowed by State regulations for wildlife harvested under the State’s general hunting provisions. Adoption of these new handicraft regulations will provide Federally qualified subsistence hunters the same opportunities that are currently available to those harvesting under state regulations, and it would accommodate existing practices.

## **SEWARD PENINSULA REGION**

### **PROPOSAL WP06-37**

**DESCRIPTION:** Close the summer caribou season in areas of Unit 22 where reindeer occur. Submitted by the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:**

Seward Peninsula: Support with modification, to change the boundary language to align with language adopted by the Alaska Board of Game during its November 2005 meeting.

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta: Support with modification. Hunters from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta do not hunt this area until October 1. There is broad support for this proposal.

**BOARD ACTION:** Adopt with modification as recommended by the Seward Peninsula and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**JUSTIFICATION:** This proposal was on the consensus agenda.

### **PROPOSAL WP06-38**

**DESCRIPTION:** Change the winter moose hunt in Unit 22A-remainder from December 1—December 31 to January 1—January 31. Submitted by the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:** Support. The proposal would align the Federal regulation with the recent changes made in State regulations.

**BOARD ACTION:** Adopt as recommended by the Council, the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.



JUSTIFICATION: This proposal was on the consensus agenda.

### **PROPOSAL WP06-39**

DESCRIPTION: Close the Federal season for moose in part of Unit 22A. Submitted by the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION: Support. This proposal is important to conserve the moose population in the affected area. The proposal would also align Federal subsistence management regulations with recent changes made in State regulations.

BOARD ACTION: Adopt as recommended by the Council, the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

JUSTIFICATION: This proposal was on the consensus agenda.

### **PROPOSAL WP06-40**

DESCRIPTION: In Unit 22B—west of the Darby Mountains—change the moose season from August 10—September 23 to September 1—September 14. In portions of Unit 22D change the moose season from August 20—September 30 to September 1—September 14 and remove quota numbers from regulation; quotas and any needed season changes will be announced by the area Field Office Manager of the Bureau of Land Management, in consultation with the National Park Service, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Submitted by the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION: Support with modification. The Council felt that the proposal is important as it provides a uniform moose season along the road accessible are in Unit 22, which should help to prevent over harvest in an area where serious concerns about the declining moose population exist. This proposal would also align Federal regulations with recent changes made in State regulations.

BOARD ACTION: Adopt with modification as recommended by the Council, the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

JUSTIFICATION: This proposal was on the consensus agenda.

### **PROPOSAL WP06-41**

DESCRIPTION: Provide for designated hunter permits for muskox in Unit 22. Stipulations are: 1) This permit may not be used if the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. 2) The designated hunter must have a designated hunter permit and return a completed harvest report. 3) The designated hunter may hunt for only one recipient per

season and have no more than two bag limits in possession. In Unit 22E a resident of Wales and Shishmaref acting as designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients, but may have no more than four harvest limits in possession. Submitted by the Seward Peninsula Muskoxen Cooperators Group.

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:** Support. Adopting a designated hunter system would produce a harvest system more in line with traditional harvest and sharing practices.

**BOARD ACTION:** Adopt, as recommended by the Council and the Interagency Staff Committee.

**JUSTIFICATION:** This proposal was on the consensus agenda.

### **PROPOSALS WP06-42 through WP06-52**

**DESCRIPTION:** Establish or revise customary and traditional use determinations for rural residents of Unit 22 for beaver, arctic fox, red fox, hare, lynx, marten, wolverine, spruce grouse, rock ptarmigan, willow ptarmigan, ground squirrel, and porcupine in Unit 22. Submitted by Kawerak, Inc.

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:** Defer until more information is available.

**BOARD ACTION:** Defer, as recommended by the Council, the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**JUSTIFICATION:** These proposals were on the consensus agenda.

### **PROPOSAL WP06-53**

**DESCRIPTION:** Requests that a motorized vehicle, including ATV, snowmachine, and boat, may be used to take a wolf in Unit 22. Submitted by the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

**COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION/JUSTIFICATION:** The Council supports the proposal with modification to adopt the State's new language for Unit 22. The Council would like to align Federal regulations with the recent changes made by the Alaska Board of Game at its January 2006 meeting. This will give Federally qualified subsistence users more opportunities to harvest wolves.

**BOARD ACTION:** Table until the Board receives clarification of intent from the Council.

**JUSTIFICATION:** At the Council chair's request the Board tabled the proposal.





FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

## Federal Subsistence Board

3601 C Street, Suite 1030  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



FOREST SERVICE

FWS/FSB/OSM/SParreplies

Mr. Clifford Weyiouanna, Vice-chair  
Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional  
Advisory Council  
Post Office Box 74,  
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772

Dear Mr. Weyiouanna:

This letter responds to the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's 2005 Annual Report dated April 15, 2006. The Federal Subsistence Board appreciates your effort in developing the Annual Report and values the opportunity to review the issues brought forward concerning your region. Annual Reports allow the Board to become more aware of the issues which fall outside the regulatory proposal process and affect subsistence users in your region.

The responsibility to respond to these reports has been delegated to the Board by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. The Board has reviewed your Annual Report and offers the following responses:

### **Issue 1: Unalakleet salmon and trout study**

*The Council requests a study on the salmon and trout (Dolly Varden) in the Unalakleet River. The study would provide baseline data and monitor stock status. The Council requested that salmon and trout issues be added to the Issues and Needs List with Fisheries Information Services Division in the Office of Subsistence Management.*

### **Response**

The Office of Subsistence Management can include a specific request for studies of salmon species and Dolly Varden char in the Unalakleet River where there is a clear linkage to Federal subsistence fisheries. Some of this desired work has already been initiated. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which is working closely with the community of Unalakleet, is finishing up a study on the distribution of coho salmon using radio telemetry. This two-year study will allow biologists to determine if the North River tower can be used to gauge escapements in the main stem Unalakleet River.

A similar study is currently being proposed for Chinook salmon by ADF&G and the Native Village of Unalakleet. Past calls for proposals have encouraged interested investigators to consider all species of fish important to subsistence, not just salmon. However, the Fisheries



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Resource Monitoring Plan could offer a call in 2008 explicitly asking for monitoring of Dolly Varden char. We would hope that qualified investigators would submit technically sound proposals to address the conservation and management of this species but, as our program is competitive, these proposals would have to compete for funding available for the Northern Region and the Monitoring Program statewide.

### **Issue 2: Unit 22 moose**

*The Council is strongly concerned about the Unit 22 moose population and feels Unit 22 moose census must be completed. In recent years, caribou changed their migration patterns and have been less abundant in Unit 22. Some local residents are now hunting moose instead of caribou, and the Council is concerned about the potential over harvest of moose. The Council will work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and its cooperators to complete a moose census in Unit 22.*

### **Response**

The Board is aware of your concerns regarding Unit 22 moose. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service have been working cooperatively to monitor the moose population in the region and have been reporting their findings to the Council in a timely manner. Because the Council is extremely concerned about the moose population in Unit 22, the Board has been working diligently to change moose hunting regulations to help protect the moose population, where needed. This should provide moose for future generations, while still providing for subsistence needs. In some areas of the Unit the moose population has dwindle significantly and harvest has had to be curtailed to allow the moose population to recover. The Board will continue to monitor the moose population in the region and strive to work closely with the Council to address any future concerns.

### **Issue 3: Sport fishing on the Unalakleet River**

*The Council expressed concerns regarding the impacts of freshwater sport fishing and its effects on the fish stocks of the Unalakleet River.*

### **Response**

Sport fisheries activities by nonlocal anglers on the Unalakleet River have expanded over time, and harvests of certain species, including Chinook and coho salmon, are higher compared to most systems in the region. The Unalakleet River is and has been a popular sport fishery. The river, at least in recent years, gets more effort than any other single river in Norton Sound. Federal jurisdiction in the Unalakleet River is limited to the BLM managed Wild and Scenic River portion upstream from the mouth about 25 miles.

The reason coho and Chinook harvests are higher here than in other rivers is that the Unalakleet has the largest runs and it also has easy access compared to most other systems in Norton Sound. Recent five year sport harvest averages that include all sport anglers (2000-2004) compared to the two prior five-year periods (1995-1999 and 1990-1994) suggest that sport harvests of most species, except Arctic grayling, have increased to some degree; however, Dolly Varden harvests



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have more than doubled. Coho salmon sport harvests have increased by about fifty percent and available data suggests that sport effort has also increased on this species. One reason for the increase is that coho runs appear to have increased over the past three or four years.

In order to develop reliable assessments of what the impact of these fisheries might be, reliable estimates of the total returns are needed to calculate what percentage of the total annual harvest are taken by the sport fisheries as well as other fisheries that target important subsistence fisheries including the commercial fisheries. Studies being funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program may help us to develop these assessments for Chinook and coho salmon in the near future. However, it should be understood that the sport fisheries only harvest a small fraction of what is currently harvested in the salmon fisheries. Harvests of char and grayling appear to be maintained at low numbers at this time. The average sport fishery harvest (2000-2004) included 318 Chinook salmon, 2,996 coho salmon, 392 chum salmon, 912 pink salmon, 1,996 Dolly Varden, and 457 Arctic grayling.

The Council, as a body or as individual members, can ask fisheries managers for updates on the available information associated with these fisheries as well as submit proposed regulatory changes to the Alaska Board of Fisheries to address changes in the sport fisheries regulations. (Data used in this response was obtained from ADF&G Division of Sport Fisheries, Fairbanks.)

#### **Issue 4: Unit 22 wolves**

*The Council is strongly concerned about the growing population of the wolves in Unit 22.*

#### **Response**

The Board is aware of the Council's concerns regarding wolves in Unit 22 and is willing to work with the Council to try and find a solution. Unit 22 already has very liberal hunting and trapping seasons for wolves. Currently, there is no harvest limit for wolf hunting and trapping. The current hunting season runs from November 1 until April 15. The current trapping season runs from November 1 until April 30. Both of these seasons occur when wolf pelts are at their prime.

Although the Board is willing to work with the Council regarding wolves in Unit 22, wildlife management activities on Federal public lands other than the subsistence take and use of fish and wildlife, such as predator control and habitat management, are the responsibility of and remain within the authority of the individual land management agencies. A copy of the Federal Subsistence Board policy on predator control is enclosed.

#### **Issue 5: Pikmiktalik River studies**

*The Council continues to express concern over the studies being done on Pikmiktalik River and want to be informed of the process and status of the studies that are being done on this river.*

#### **Response**

The Pikmiktalik River salmon enumeration project has begun for the 2006 season. Mr. Danny Nashoanuk is the lead technician and has worked on the project since its inception in 2003. Mr. Ryan Nashoanuk is another Pikmiktalik fisheries technician, and has worked on the

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project since 2004. Mr. Charlie Doty and Mr. Lenny Katcheak are the other fisheries technicians working this season. All are local hires from Stebbins and St. Michael and work on a three-weeks on, one-week off schedule. The counting tower and partial weir was set up on June 21. June 22, 2006 the fisheries technicians noted that thirty-three whitefish moved downstream. No other fish were seen. Local residents of Stebbins and St. Michael have been seeing salmon in the mouth of the Pikmiktalik, and in the nearshore marine areas. In the end of June, it was expected that fish would be seen shortly.

#### **Issue 6: Proxy hunting**

*The Council wants to learn more and be given more information about proxy hunting.*

#### **Response**

The Federal Subsistence Management Program has a designated hunter provision, with which the Council is familiar. The State of Alaska has a similar program, the proxy hunt, but it is different from the Federal Program and has recently undergone significant changes. Under State of Alaska hunting regulations, an Alaska resident (the beneficiary) may obtain an authorization allowing another Alaska resident (the proxy) to hunt deer, most caribou, or some moose if the beneficiary is blind, 70-percent physically disabled, or 65 years of age or older. The Federal hunt doesn't have disability or age requirements.

The State of Alaska hunts have the following restrictions:

- A person may not be a proxy for more than one beneficiary at a time.
- Antler destruction is required for all species, and is required for each animal taken by the proxy hunter (both the proxy hunter's animals and the beneficiary's animals). Antler destruction must occur at the kill site unless regulations require uncut antlers to be submitted to ADF&G for measuring, at which time ADF&G will perform the antler destruction. Antler destruction consists of removing at least one antler from the skull plate or cutting the skull plate in half to destroy the trophy value.

The State of Alaska proxy hunt had the following changes in 2006:

- In Unit 13, a hunter may not be a proxy hunter more than once per season per species.
- Proxy hunting for moose is authorized for Tier II hunts where the legal animal is any bull moose and where the legal animal is an antlerless moose.
- Proxy hunting is authorized for caribou, except in Fortymile caribou registration hunts and for bulls in the Mulchatna caribou hunts in Units 9B, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A, and 19B. In Unit 13, only Tier II caribou permit holders may be proxy hunters for beneficiaries with Tier II permits.



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- Proxy hunting is not allowed for the Unit 20E moose registration hunt; or for the Units 21 and 24 moose registration hunts, if either the proxy hunter or the beneficiary holds a drawing permit for the Galena area hunts.

Additional details regarding proxy hunting are on page 11 of the 2006-2007 Alaska hunting regulations booklet or can be obtained from the ADF&G office in Nome.

### **Issue 7: Council size**

*The Council continues to express strong concerns on the size of their membership. They do represent 19 villages. Since its inception, the members of this Council were seven. The number was not enough to adequately represent the region. They proposed to change their membership to nine from seven. Now, with 10 members, three seats being for commercial/sport, this puts the Council back to its original seven. The Council strongly urges the Federal Subsistence Management program to enlarge the size of the Seward Peninsula Council to 13.*

### **Response**

The Secretary considers Regional Advisory Council charters for renewal every two years concurrent with the Council member appointments; the charters were last signed in October 2005 so the next review will occur in 2007. The Regional Advisory Councils will review their charters at the fall 2006 meetings and may submit requests for change at that time. The Board will meet in June 2007 to discuss requests for changes to the charters and develop its recommendations to the Secretary. The Councils' requests and the Board's recommendations will be forwarded to the Secretary immediately following that meeting.

The Board recognizes the Council's desire to increase its membership to 13 in order to include members from more of the Seward Peninsula Region communities. However, the Board believes that ten members provide adequate representation for the Seward Peninsula Region. Other ten-member Regional Advisory Councils represent regions with a similar number to or more communities than the Seward Peninsula Region; for example, the Bristol Bay Region has about 21 communities, the Eastern Interior Region has about 40 communities, and the Western Interior Region has about 37 communities. The three thirteen-member Regional Advisory Councils represent regions with about 30, 40, and 66 communities. Geographic distribution of members throughout the regions will continue to be an important consideration when the Board develops its recommendations for Council member appointments.

The Council would also increase its membership in order to add more subsistence use representatives. All Regional Advisory Council members, whether seated as commercial/sport or subsistence use representatives, represent the people of their region. Therefore, the Board will continue to recommend candidates who have the broadest range of knowledge and experience and are the most highly qualified among the applicants.

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In closing, I applaud the Council's continuing diligence in raising concerns in order to maintain healthy subsistence resources and adequate subsistence harvest opportunities. I speak for the entire Board in expressing our appreciation for your efforts and our confidence that the subsistence users of the region are well represented through your work.

Sincerely,

Ronald B. McCoy, Interim Chair  
Federal Subsistence Board

Enclosure

cc: SPSRAC  
Federal Subsistence Board  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Seward Peninsula Team, OSM  
FACA Coordinator, OSM



## **PREDATOR MANAGEMENT POLICY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD**

Adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board on  
May 20, 2004

The Federal Subsistence Board recognizes that predators are an important component of Alaska's dynamic ecosystems, beneficial to maintaining balance, health, and diversity within associated wildlife populations and habitats. Furthermore, the Board recognizes the traditional Alaska Native cultural beliefs and values associated with wolves, bears and other predatory species, and the impact that predators can have on ungulate populations valued by subsistence users. In addition, the Board recognizes that predator control may be an appropriate management tool on some Federal public lands for restoring prey populations to provide for subsistence needs where predation has reduced or held prey populations at levels significantly below historical levels of abundance.

As authorized by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture [50 CFR Part 100.10 (USDI) and 36 CFR Part 242.10 (USDA)], the Board administers the subsistence taking and uses of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands through regulations that provide for the non-wasteful harvest of fish and wildlife by Federally qualified rural residents, consistent with the maintenance of healthy populations of harvested resources. Such subsistence taking and uses are "*... for direct personal or family consumption ...*" (Section 803 of ANILCA). Wildlife management activities on Federal public lands other than the subsistence take and use of fish and wildlife, such as predator control and habitat management, are the responsibility of and remain within the authority of the individual land management agencies.

Accordingly, the Board will:

- A. Consider all Federal proposals to regulate seasons and dates, methods and means, harvest limits, and customary & traditional use determinations for the subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Board will ensure that the effect of its decisions is to provide for subsistence take and use of the subject species. The Board will also take into account approved population objectives, management plans, customary and traditional uses, and recognized principles of fish and wildlife management.
- B. Direct the Office of Subsistence Management to provide proponents of predator control proposals (all Federal proposals that specifically indicate that the reason for the proposed regulation(s) is to reduce the predator population to benefit prey populations), with procedures for submitting the proposal to the appropriate agency. Where predators have been determined to be a major contributing factor in the significant reduction of ungulate populations important for subsistence use, or in the chronic suppression of such populations at low densities, the Board will endorse timely, affirmative and effective action consistent with each respective agency's policies and management objectives, to reduce predator populations and allow affected ungulate populations to recover. The Board will monitor actions taken by the agency to address such concerns, and will



provide appropriate support where necessary to ensure the continuation of subsistence harvest opportunities.

C. Ensure that the appropriate Regional Council(s) is informed of predator control proposals by having them printed in the Proposal Booklet and presented to the Council at the next appropriate Council meeting, along with other rejected proposals that address concerns which are outside the authorities of the Federal Subsistence Board.